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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Durham VA Medical Center Announces New Deputy Chief of Staff

Dr. Chad Kessler's Talent Will Be Put to Use Helping Local Veterans

DURHAM, N.C. – The Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Chad Kessler, MD, MHPE, as the new Deputy Chief of Staff. Dr. Kessler received his M.D. from Thomas Jefferson University, Jefferson Medical College and a Masters degree in Health Professionals Education at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

“We are excited to bring Dr. Kessler to the Durham VAMC. He will be a great addition to our team and will oversee high quality care provided to local Veterans” said DeAnne Seekins, Medical Center Director. “His expertise in emergency medicine, patient handoffs, and process improvement will be put to great use as our new Emergency Department Service Line begins full operations in a newly designed Emergency Department scheduled to open in 2013.”

Dr. Kessler served Veterans in numerous capacities since joining VA in 2006, most recently as Section Chief and Director of Emergency Medicine at the Jesse Brown VAMC in Illinois. He is a Senior Consultant for VA's Women's Health Education and Training program and is the newly elected Chairman for the National Advisory Committee on VA Emergency Medicine. He is a board certified physician in both Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine.

“Dr. Kessler will bring energy and leadership along with impressive clinical skills to Durham VAMC,” reports John D. Shelburne, M.D., Ph.D., Chief of Staff at the Durham VAMC. “Emergency medical services are an important part of the Veterans comprehensive medical benefits package. Dr. Kessler and the opening of the new emergency department will allow Durham to take emergency care to a whole new level,” he added.

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With a staff of about 2,200, the Durham VAMC is a tertiary care referral, teaching, and research facility located adjacent to Duke University Medical Center. A part of the Veterans Health Administration, it delivers health care to more than 56,000 Veterans living in eastern N.C. and has an operating budget of approximately \$400 million. The campus consists of a 151-bed acute care hospital and a 120-bed Community Living Center facility, and houses the VISN 6 Mental Illness Research and Clinical Center (MIRECC), Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), and Southeast Epilepsy Center of Excellence. The medical center operates Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Greenville, Morehead City, and Raleigh, N.C. as well as a free standing Outpatient Dialysis Unit in Raleigh. To learn more about the Durham VA Medical Center, please visit www.durham.va.gov.

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